FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Slaughter Announces $1 Million for Rochester General Hospital Joint Project with MYOTECH and Biophan

Funding Will Support Development of New Minimally-Invasive Cardiac Support System

Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-Fairport), Chairwoman of the House Rules Committee, today announced $1 million in federal funding to support the advancement of cutting-edge medical research in Rochester.

The funding secured by Rep. Slaughter will assist Rochester General Hospital, in partnership with two local high-tech firms, MYOTECH and Biophan, to develop a new, minimally-invasive, cardiac support device. As part of the project, the funding will help to establish production, training, and distribution facilities for the new device in Monroe County.

Rep. Slaughter secured the funding as part of the FY2007 Defense Appropriations bill.

At the event, Rep. Slaughter was joined by Mark Clement, ViaHealth CEO and President of Rochester General Hospital, Dr. Ronald Kirshner, RGH's Chief of Cardiac Services & Cardiothoracic Surgery, and Jeffrey Helfer, CEO and President of MYOTECH and Biophan's Cardiovascular Division.

"This funding will not only help to develop life-saving technology, but it is an important investment in our burgeoning high-tech biomedical sector," said Rep. Slaughter.
"MYOTECH and Biophan represent the future of Rochester. These are local companies with international reputations, and their project with RGH is a perfect example of the cutting-edge research that is taking place right here in our own backyard."

"This project underscores Rochester General's commitment to providing the best health care available to our community," the Congresswoman continued. **"In the process, medical breakthroughs like MYOTECH's cardiac support system are going to help create quality local jobs for our talented workforce."**

The project will help complete work on the MYO-VAD, a device that can be used to restore blood flow in failing and even arrested hearts. It can be inserted into patients quickly, and unlike previously existing technology, it works without coming in contact with the patient's blood, thereby lowering the risk of stroke, bleeding, infection and other complications.

"We are grateful for the significant support provided through the leadership of Congresswoman Slaughter," said Mark C. Clement, President and CEO of ViaHealth. **"As a Solucient Top 100 Heart Hospital, we are excited about the opportunity to be part of this leading-edge cardiac research. We are especially pleased to be working with such a prestigious partner as MYOTECH in this effort to better serve patients."**

"Rochester General is excited to be involved with the development of this new Myovad technology," said Dr. Ronald Kirshner, Chief of Cardiac Services & Cardiothoracic Surgery at Rochester General. **"It is designed to make ventricular assist devices available to a wider range of patients with far fewer complications. We think this technology will be truly groundbreaking and save many lives."**

"Our product has the potential to save many lives," added Jeffrey Helfer, President of Biophan's cardiovascular division.
"We are very grateful to Congresswoman Slaughter for her support. This appropriation will help to extend the availability of life-saving technology to nearly every hospital - much closer to where most heart failure patients require emergency care. We also anticipate that our product will be available to advanced military hospitals to help treat battlefield injuries."

BACKGROUND

Rochester General Hospital (RGH) together with MYOTECH and Biophan, Rochester based medical device companies, will develop a program to bring a new generation of minimally invasive cardiac support capability to patients.

Existing cardiac support devices are limited to patients of a few specialized health providers. RGH and MYOTECH are developing new technology which can easily and safely be used in virtually every hospital. The cardiac support system can be installed by a general surgeon in three minutes or less. This device slips over the heart and provides the energy to restore blood flow to life sustaining levels. It does not contact circulating blood so complications associated with existing cardiac devices, including bleeding, clotting and stoke, and infection, are minimized. The system is expected to have higher success rates with fewer complications than existing devices at one-third the cost of existing devices. This funding will be used to assist RGH and MYOTECH in final product development, manufacturing and training of health care providers in its use.

MYOTECH is a local biomedical company that was started in Rochester. Biophan, another Rochester start-up, has a 40% interest in MYOTECH with rights to acquire a majority position, and is leading MYOTECH's business development efforts.

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